

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: ILO, JA
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENTS:
JAPANESE REACTION

REF: STATE 207104

1. SUMMARY: GOJ BASICALLY AGREES WITH USG EVALUATION
OF RECENT ILC, AND ACCEPTS RATIONALE BEHIND OUR DEFERRING
UNTIL AFTER NEXT YEARS ILC ANY DECISION ON WHETHER TO
RETURN TO ILO. OFFICIALS OF MINISTRIES OF LABOR AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS BOTH CAUTION AGAINST OUR PLACING TOO
HIGH EXPECTATIONS ON STRUCTURAL REFORM, PARTICULARLY
CHANGES IN GB COMPOSITION AND URGE US TO ACCEPT
REALISTIC COMPROMISE ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY EC NATIONS.

2. DRAWING ON TALKING POINTS CONTAINED REFTL, ON
AUGUST 17 LABATT DISCUSSED WITH MOFA AND MOL OFFICIALS
RESULTS OF AUGUST 10 U.S. CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE
MEETING ON ILO.

3. MOL DEPUTY VICE MINISTER IWATA SAID THAT HE BASICALLY
AGREED WITH USG EVALUATION OF THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL
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LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC). JAPANESE, BELIEVED, HOWEVER,
THAT THERE WERE THREE PLUSES AT ILC. IN ADDITION TO
RECOGNIZING EXPLICITLY A SINLE UNIVERSAL STANDARD FOR
EVALUATING APPLICATION OF ILO CONVENTIONS AND REFUSING
TO APPROVE ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD HAVE
VIOLATED DUE PROCESS, ILC DEMONSTRATED CLEAR PREFERENCE
FOR NEGOTIAION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION BY POSTPONING

FOR ONE YEAR ANY DECISIONS ON STRUCTURAL REFORM. IWATA THOUGHT THIS LAST DEVELOPMENT PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE GROUP OF 77 CLEARLY HAD THE VOTES TO PUSH THROUGH ANY FORM OF STRUCTURAL REFORM IT FAVORED. NEVERTHELESS, IWATA CAUTIONED AGAINST OVERRATING RESULTS OF THIS YEAR'S ILC, SINCE AS HE TERMED IT, THE IMEC GROUP HAD SEVERAL "LUCKY BREAKS". HE THOUGHT REAL TEST WOULD COME AT NEXT YEAR'S ILC WHEN DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE REACHED ON STRUCTURAL CHANGE, ARAB EXTREMISTS WERE SURE TO MAKE ANOTHER AND EVEN GREATER EFFORT TO EXTEND LIFE OF 1974 ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION AND REVIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS CASES WOULD BE TAKEN UP IN EARNEST. THEREFORE, HE SAID THAT U.S. CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE ACTION IN EFFECT POSTPONING ANY DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO RETURN TO ILO WAS PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLE TO JAPANESE.

4. IWATA USED OCCASION TO EXPRESS ONCE AGAIN HIS CONCERN THAT U.S. WAS DISPLAYING TOO INFLEXIBLE AN ATTITUDE TOWARDS STRUCTURAL REFORM, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO CHANGES IN COMPOSITION OF GOVERNING BODY. HE NOTED THAT IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO. INSTEAD, U.S. SHOULD ASSIST OTHER MEMBERS OF IMEC GROUP IN WORKING OUT COMPROMISE FORMULA WHICH WOULD MEET GROUP OF 77 DESIRES FOR GREATER REPRESENTATION WHILE PRESERVING EFFECTIVENESS OF GB. IN SEPARATE MEETING, MOFA UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES DIRECTOR KIJIMA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ECHOED SAME POINT BY URGING US NOT TO TAKE TOO NEGATIVE AN ATTITUDE TOWARDS IMEC COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ON GB STRUCTURE. WHILE JAPAN ALSO WOULD HAVE PREFERRED NOT TO EXPAND SIZE OF GB, THIS POSITION PROVED UNTENABLE IN WORKING PARTY MEETINGS. JAPANESE WERE NOW WILLING TO SUPPORT PACKAGE PROPOSED BY EC NATIONS ENDORSED BY IMEC GROUP AND APPARENTLY ACCEPTABLE TO GROUP OF 77 MODERATES PROVIDING FOR EXPANSION IN NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT SEATS TO ABOUT FIFTY AND MAINTENANCE OF PRINCIPLE OF FOUR REGIONAL GROUPINGS (WHILE PERMITTING EACH GROUP TO ESTABLISH SUBREGIONAL GROUPINGS IF IT DESIRED). KIJIMA HOPED U.S. COULD ALSO LIVE WITH THIS COMPROMISE. KIJIMA ADDED THAT IF U.S. IS DETERMINED TO MAKE STRUCTURAL REFORM ONE OF ITS CONDITIONS FOR REENTRY, IT SHOULD BE MORE REALISTIC IN TERMS OF EXPECTATIONS IN ORDER TO AVOID "DEFEAT" NEXT YEAR. MANSFIELD

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